ZS9MADIBA

ZS9MADIBA - a special call sign to celebrate President Nelson Mandela's legacy - The South African Radio League will be operating special event stations from around South Africa using the call sign ZS9MADIBA. Members of the SARL are invited to apply for time slots to operate ZS9MIDIBA from their own shacks. QSLing is via the bureau or by sending your QSL to SARL, PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735, South Africa. You may also use Logbook of the World. To receive the special QSL card by mail, include $1 for postage.

ZS9MADIBA is the South African Radio League Special Event Station commemorating the life and recent passing of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, elder statesman and first democratically-elected President of the Republic of South Africa. Affectionately referred to as "Madiba", he became one of the most recognised leaders in the world and was instrumental in the peaceful transition of South Africa from minority rule to a constitutional democracy. South Africans join the people of the world in mourning his passing and celebrating his legacy.

World Radiosport Team Championship

Onsite Referees for WRTC2014 Announced
http://www.wrtc2014.org/onsite-referees-for-wrtc2014-announced/

WRTC2014, Inc., host of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC), is pleased to announce the fifty-nine referees that will be monitoring the competing teams during the competition on 12 and 13 July 2014.

A referee will be on site at each of the 59 competing stations to verify compliance with the rules and make decisions on any rule questions by the teams. The referees must be top-level contesters because they must simultaneously listen to the audio from both operators for the entire 24 hours of the WRTC2014 competition.

The referee application and verification process was managed by Dan Street, K1TO. There were 143 applications received. The selection process considered many factors, including geographical areas, language skills and SO2R ability.

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Chief Judge for WRTC2014, had this comment regarding the selections, "With so many well qualified volunteers willing to serve as referees it was simply impossible to choose everyone we would have liked. It is a great tribute to the past and present WRTC organizers that the event is so strongly supported by active contesters from around the globe. We know that everyone who volunteered will help in any way they can to make WRTC 2014 another success."

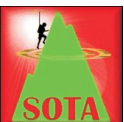### Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote **Amateur Radio?**

December

1 - Advent; SARL Digital Contest; World Aids Day
3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
4 - All schools close
14 and 15 - ARRL 10 metre contest
16 - Day of Reconciliation
21 - Summer Solstice
25 - Christmas Day
26 - Day of Goodwill

January

1 - New Years Day; start of ARRL Centennial QSO Party; Start of 2014 CQ Challenge
11 and 12 - Hunting Lions -in-the-Air
13 - SARL Office opens
15 - All schools open
17 to 19 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
25 - Summer QRP Contest

Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk

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There are less than 7 months remaining until WRTC2014. Questions regarding WRTC2014 Referee selection should be submitted by e-mail to Referee@wrtc2014.org.

List of Referees

9A4M	Mate Botica
CX7TT	Tom Morton
DL2OBF	Heinrich Langkopf
EA5RS	Juan M. Chazarra
ES5RY	Toomas Soomets
F6BEE	Jacques Saget
G3SXW	Roger Western
G4BUO	Dave Lawley
GM4AFF	Stewart Cooper
HA1AG	Zoli Pitman
HA3NU	László Weisz
HA6ND	Válóczi György
HB9CAT	Marco Zollinger
IT9GSF	Fabio Grisafi
JH4RHF	Jun Tanaka
K4BAI	John T. Laney III
K4RO	Kirk Pickering
K5GN	David McCarty
K5GO	Stan Stockton
K5WA	Bob Evans
K6NA	Glenn Rattmann
K7GK	Denis Pochuev
KC7V	Mike Fulcher
LY7Z	Andrius Ignotas
LZ1CNN/T6LG	Ilian Lazarov Gadzhev
LZ2HM	Andrey Stefanov Sachkov
N3RD	David Hawes
N5AW	Marvin Bloomquist
NF4A	Charles Wooten
OE6MBG	Michael S. Schwab
OH1RX	Jouko Häyrynen
PA3AAV	Gert Meinen
PY8AZT	Luc Moreira
RA3AUU	Igor "Harry" Booklan
RA9USU	Dmitry Zhikharev
RW4WR	Alex Orlov
S50XX	Kristjan Kodermac
S53R	Robert Kasca
SM6LRR	Mats Strandberg
SP4Z	Wieslaw Kosinski
UA9MA	Gennady I Kolmakov
UT5UGR	Dmitry Stashuk
UT7QF	Igor Syerikov
VA2WA	Victor Androsov
VE3EY	Nick Lekic
VE3RA	Ed Kulchenko
VE3XB	Yuri Romanov
VK2IA	Bernd Länger
VK4EMM	John Loftus
W0YK	Ed Muns
W4PA	Scott E. Robbins
W6OAT	Charles K. "Rusty" Epps
YL2KL	Girts Budis
YO9GZU	Tiberiu "Tibi" Tebeica
YU1EA/YT8A	Dušan Ceha
YU1LA	Ivan Mastilovic
ZL3CW/F2CW	Jacques Calvo
ZS4TX	Bernie van der Walt
ZS6EZ	Chris R. Burger

See http://www.wrtc2014.org/qualifying/referee-selection/ for an explanation of the referee qualifications and application process.

About WRTC2014

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is held every four years and consists of 50+ two-person teams of amateur radio operators from around the world competing in a test of operating skill. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability.

Previous WRTCs have been held in Seattle (1990), San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), and Russia (2010). More information is available at www.wrtc2014.org or contact WRTC Chairman Doug Grant, K1DG, via e-mail at k1dg@wrtc2014.org.

Special Norwegian prefixes during 2014

During all of the year 2014, Norwegian LA stations may use the LI (Lima India) prefix, and LB stations may use the LJ (Lima Juliet) prefix, as part of the celebration of 200 years since the Norwegian Constitution, which was approved on 17 May 1814. QSL will be via the respective LA and LB permanent calls. The special prefixes may only be used from the Norwegian mainland.

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There will also be a special station active, with the call: LM1814 (QSL via LA2G).

The Norwegian Radio Relay League (NRRL) plans to offer a special award for contacts with the jubilee stations with LI and LJ prefixes plus the special station LM1814. Stay tuned!

73 from Tom, LA4LN

Tom V. Segalstad, NRRL HF Traffic Manager

New Science

When the *CW Skimmer* software http://www.dxatlas.com/cwskimmer/ was released by Alex VE3NEA, I remember thinking it had the potential to be a game-changer. As it turns out, "skimmers" are changing the game but in more ways than we had anticipated and in more games than we expected.

The most obvious change was simply the sheer speed advantage that it conferred compared to human operator. Even giving the human operator the best possible outcome in every situation, assuming perfect timing sync as a new signal was tuned in, and so forth, *CW Skimmer* could extract call signs from 100 kHz of band about 15 times faster. But that was thinking too small, only considering the software as an accessory for one operator.

The Reverse Beacon Net http://reversebeacon.net/ started out as a way for individual stations to see how they were being heard *there* instead of what they could hear *here*. Novel, indeed, but not really all that different from a regular QSO except that the RBN can give you *real* signal reports with resolution of 1 dB. As more and more skimmers are added to the network, something very interesting has begun to happen.

Multiple *CW Skimmer* stations around the world are now working together, listening to all the bands, all the time - 24/7/365. There are currently a few dozen around the world, mostly in North America and Europe but more are being added all the time and all continents are represented. While not calibrated to the accuracy of a laboratory instrument in most cases, we are now watching a worldwide propagation monitoring network come to life! In a couple of years, no matter where you are, one or two CQs or TEST transmissions will generate a snapshot of propagation from your location to every populated region on the planet...in about 10 seconds. This is simply unprecedented - consider the effects on just two areas of amateur technology.

First and most obviously, propagation can now be assessed in real-time to a degree completely unavailable before. Furthermore, the data is logged and available for analysis. This forms a crucial and previously-missing link between propagation models and propagation as it actually occurs. To be sure, HF propagation testing was done many years ago in academia and by the military but the breadth and depth of the RBN data is completely new. For example, in the K1TO-NP3A chart you can clearly see the 10 meter band opening to Europe from the two different areas as the world turns.

Coupled with validated QSO databases such as public contest logs and solar-geomagnetic data from NOAA databases, amateurs can begin to look for "interesting" propagation that models miss. Other propagation assessment tools, like K1JT's WSPR protocol and its companion network, WSPRNet, can be added to the mix. Perhaps someday, data from Logbook Of the World http://arrl.org/lotw - the world's largest database of validated point to point communications data - will be available, as well.

Another great use of automated reception reports is in antenna and antenna system design. No longer limited to test range data (at best), hams can now ask and answer questions such as, "What is the right height for my antenna for the path to..." and "Does my new design perform better or worse than..." and a million other questions for which answers are rarely precise and usually completely unavailable. Who can look at the comparisons and not be struck by the different signal levels of the stations?

We have been given a gift, the power of which we are just being to sense. When new types of data become available for analysis and are combined with new forms of visualization, we know that good things happen. Unexpected things. Explanations of mysteries. Better still, new explanations for what we thought we understood. Best of all, we will ask new questions!

The world of Amateur Radio is changing, in part due to these new tools. I look forward to new science being "done" by amateurs, resulting in new understandings of the world in which live and an exciting future.

73, Ward NØAX

HF Happenings

Rasberry-Pi Google Calendar

Getting those operating events on the refrigerator in advance is crucial to a successful-not-stressful contest season, but what if the paper calendar has been replaced by an online version? This Instructables project http://www.instructables.com/id/Raspberry-Pi-Wall-Mounted-Google-Calendar/ shows how to use a Raspberry Pi computer module to control a wall-mounted Google Calendar that will never go out of date!

Operating Tip

With RTTY contesting increasing in popularity and the ARRL's RTTY Roundup coming up in January, one of the premier RTTY contesters, Don AA5AU, has written several tutorials to help you to get started such as this one http://www.rttycontesting.com/tutorials/tutorials.htm, primarily aimed at Writelog users, but that can be applied to most logging software and a more generic MMTTY tutorial http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.html. N1MM-specific information for MMTTY http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Digital+-+MMTTY+for+RTTY+Support and an overall N1MM digital operation setup guide http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Digital+Setup is also available. Jim, AD4EB, has also written a guide to the basics you can find on the Tennessee Contest Group website http://www.k4ro.net/tcg/sedco/RTTY_Contesting_Basics_AD4EB.pdf. When you're finally all set up and ready for the contest, AA5AU has a set of suggested exchange messages http://rttycontesting.com/messages/buffers_naqp.htm for NAQP written for Writelog but easily convertible to N1MM or other software.

Aluminium Tubing

Trying to dissolve the "junk" between sections of telescoping aluminium tubing can certainly try one's patience! Patrick, NJ5G, suggests a method of keeping the joint immersed in the solvent or penetrating solution without having to stand there and watch it! "Stand the tubes vertically with the smaller diameter tube on top. Form a lump of modelling clay around the larger diameter tube just below the overlap point. Now you can pour in your favorite solvent and immerse the joint. If your favourite solvent dissolves the modelling clay then use silicone caulk instead of clay." He notes that heating and or cooling the joint may help, as well.

Multi-Single Category

It can be confusing trying to setup and operate a multi-single category with the subtle differences in rules between the CQ World Wide and ARRL DX Contests. Here is an article about multi-single stations in both contests http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/contest/msingle.php

CQ WW Contests

Now that all log submission deadlines have passed, you can see all of the Raw Scores for the CQ Worldwide SSB and CW Contests http://cqww.com/. These scores are computed from the submitted logs before log-checking. If you notice any problems, contact the contest manager.

African Island DX

3B9, Rodrigues Island. Eric, OE4AAC, will once again be active as 3B9/OE4AAC from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between 10 and 18 February. Activity will be holiday style on 40 - 10 metres CW. QSL via OE4AAC.

OF9X – Old Father 9 Xmas

Do you remember the Ho-Ho Santa Claus who penetrated the bands and talked to children all over the world from Santa's homeland - Finnish Lapland?

If you don't – just refresh your memory at QRZ.com (www.qrz.com/db/OF9X). Santa's helpers are now whispering that the white-bearded Old Man will be on the air this year again. The focus is on this coming weekend to remind you of the fun period of Christmas and to create the right spirit for families with children throughout the world. Just as last year, this will happen on the radio waves and hopefully on a variety of bands. Not many people knew then that Santa can even send Morse code!

Already tonight and over the next few days, Santa will appear around 14,235 kHz while loading up his sleigh for the weekend's world tour. Just go for it and get involved – let your children or grandchildren feel the true coming of Christmas and the presence of Santa Claus.

The upcoming Friday announcement may again include Santa's personal token to those who truly believe in Santa Claus.

Season's Greetings from the Land of Santa Claus!

African DX

V5, Namibia. Dietmar, DL3DXX, plans to get on the air from Outjo as V5/DL3DXX from 20 December until 8 January. he will active on 160-10m, mainly on CW. QSL via home call and ClubLog. https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/V5/DL3DXX

African Tour. Operators Mathias, DJ2HD and Ulmar, DK1CE, will once again be active as V5/DJ2HD and V5/DK1CE from Namibia between now and 18 January. This is just one part of their 4x4 trip through different African countries. Activity will be holiday style on CW, SSB and RTTY, but will also include a SSB entry in the DARC 10 m Contest (14 January). During this time frame, Mathias and Ulmar will also travel to and be active as 7P8DJ and 7P8CE, respectively, from Lesotho between 22 and 24 December. Their plans also include to be active from South Africa (as ZS/DJ2HD and ZS/DK1CE). Mathias, DJ2HD, and Ulmar, DK1CE, will be joined by Wolfgang, DH3WO and will be active from Botswana between 24 and 30 December, signing A25DJ, A25CE and A25WO, respectively. QSL all call signs via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

ZS2DL QSL Change. As of 1 January 2014, QSL Manager Buzz, NI5DX, will no longer be assisting ZS2DL as his manager. Donovan has decided that he will handle his own QSLing. Buzz will continue to answer any QSL requests for contacts prior to 1 January 2014, until 1 March. At that time, ALL requests for a ZS2DL card must go direct to ZS2DL. All Bureau cards must go to ZS2DL as NI5DX will no longer reply to Bureau cards after 1 January.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 December 2013

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 - 02:00 UTC 20 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 December 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 20 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 21 December 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules)

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Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 December 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Russian 160-Metre Contest

20:00 – 24:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Exchange: Rus: RS(T) and Oblast code; non-Rus: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each DXCC entity once; Each Oblast once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 January 2014

E-mail logs to: contest@radio.ru

Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php

Mail logs to: Radio Magazine, 10 Seliverstov per., 107045 Moscow, Russia

Find rules at: http://www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2012.shtml

AGB-Party Contest

21:00 – 24:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (CW/SSB/Mixed); Multi-Op; Digital; 1 Hour; SWL

Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and Member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each DXCC/WAE country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 January 2014

E-mail logs to: eu1eu@mail.ru

Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU, PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus

Find rules at:
http://www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm

Feld Hell Sprint

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 21 December

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 28 December 2013

Upload log at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules

OK DX RTTY Contest

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band (Low/High); Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and CQ Zone

QSO Points: 10 – 20 m: 1 point same continent, 2 points different continent; 40 – 80 m: 3 points same continent, 6 points different continent

Multipliers: DXCC Countries, once per band; OK stations, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (DXCC mults and OK mults)

Submit logs by: 4 January 2014

Upload log at:
http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=send-log

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=english

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

00:01 UTC 21 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January

Mode: Any

HF Happenings

HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name and state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 31 January 2014
E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA
Find rules at: http://arlhs.com/LCL-2013.html

Croatian CW Contest
14:00 UTC 21 December to 14:00 UTC 22 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band – QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Multi-Single
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: HP: 100 or more watts; LP: <100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: Own continent: 2 points 40 - 160 m, 1 point 10 - 20 m; Other continents: 6 points 40 - 160 m, 3 points 10 - 20 m; 9A stations: 10 points 40 - 160 m, 6 points 10 - 20 m
Multipliers: DXCC/WAE Countries, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 21 January 2014
E-mail logs to: 9acw@9acw.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://9acw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94:rules-2013&catid=39:english&Itemid=66

ARRL Rookie CW Roundup
18:00 - 23:59 UTC 22 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m
Classes: Single Op Rookie; Multi-Op Rookie; Non-Rookies
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state, province, XE area or DX
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-rookie; 2 points per QSO with rookie
Multipliers: Each US state and DC once; Each VE province once; Each XE call area once; One DX once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 25 December 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr_scoresubmission.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Next weeks contests

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 21 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January
SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 December
DARC Christmas Contest, 08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 December
RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 28 December
World Wide Iron Ham Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 December to 11:59 UTC 29 December
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December
Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December
RAEM Contest, 00:00 - 11:59 UTC 29 December